

# Indiana Commission for Higher Education Student Success Committee

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WELCOME

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INTRODUCTIONS



# OUR MISSION

Foster Success's mission is to hear, support, and empower teens and young adults transitioning out of foster care on their journey to self-sufficiency.

# Foster Success Population

**Foster Success supports young people who have experienced foster care as a teen from age 14 until their 26th birthday this includes more than 24,000 individuals across Indiana.**

In 2021-2022 Foster Success supported more than:

- 750 young people from Indiana
- 46% were young people of color
- 68% identified as female, 30% as male, and 2% as non-binary
- 64% identify as living under the federal poverty level
- 64% have received a mental health diagnosis

# Impact Areas



**Educational  
SUCCESS**



**Financial  
EMPOWERMENT**



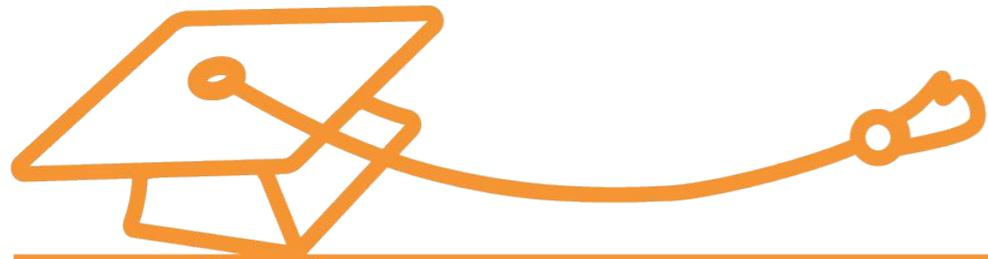
**Workforce  
READINESS**



**Health  
& WELL-BEING**



**Youth  
ENGAGEMENT**



**Educational**

**SUCCESS**

## **Education and Training Voucher Program**

ETV is a Federally funded program that provides financial assistance to qualifying former and current foster youth pursuing a post-secondary credential. \$5,000 per academic year

## **College Student Support**

Regional Education Coordinator assist students in navigating their higher education experience

## **Catalyst**

Summer bridge program for rising college freshmen. Young people earn six college credits, college experience, and a weekly stipend.

## **Pathways**

This program guides high school sophomores, juniors and seniors in exploring their options for post high school, and is paired with a curriculum that includes the state's educational pathway and 21st Century Scholarship Scholar Success program requirements.

# Older Foster Youth in Indiana

**In 2018, Indiana extended the age a young person can stay in extended foster care until their 21st birthday and they can receive independent living services until their 23rd birthday.\***

At 18, there are three paths a young person can take:

- Full exit from care and services
- Collaborative Care (available until 21st birthday)
- Voluntary Services (available until 23rd birthday)

\*This was possible due passage of the federal Family First Prevention Act in 2018.

# What We Know - Who is Going to College

**The Indiana Commission for Higher Education has prioritized supporting Indiana's older foster youth.**

- As of 2020, any student in 7th - 12th grade is auto-enrolled into the 21st Century Scholars program

<b>HS Grad Year</b>	<b># Scholars</b>	<b># Claims</b>	<b>Percent Claims</b>	<b>Non-21CS Aid</b>	<b>Percent Non-21CS</b>
2018	716	107	14.90%	42	5.87%
2019	764	100	13.10%	50	6.54%
2020	1201	131	10.90%	51	4.25%
2021	1548	131	8.50%	38	2.45%
2022	1850	173	9.40%	40	2.16%

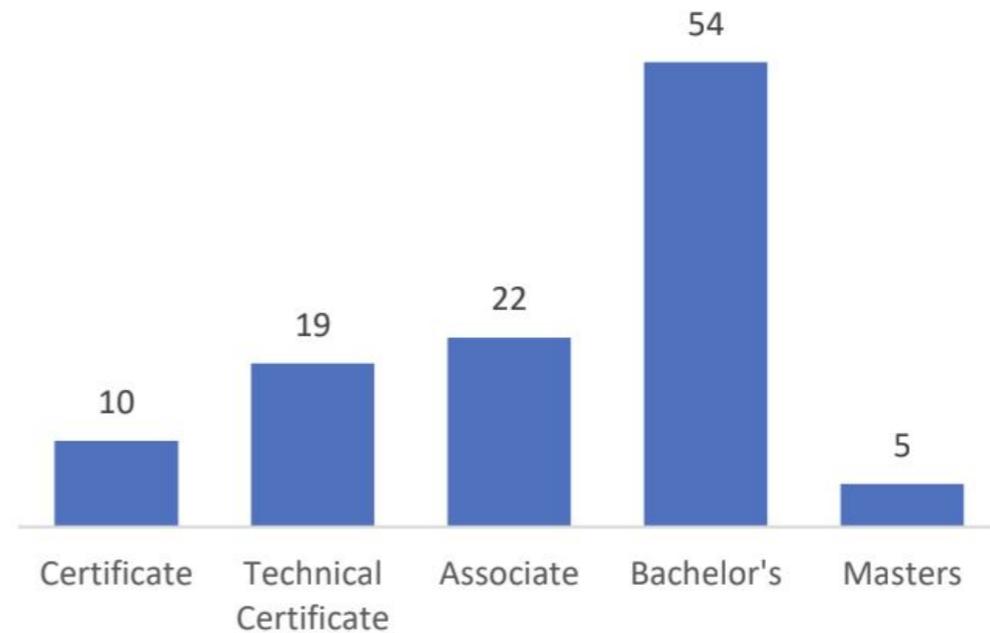
# What We Know - Who is Completing College

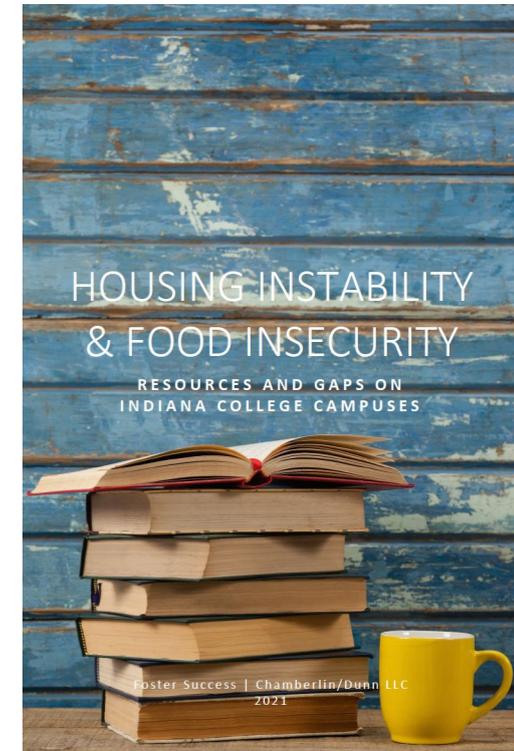
In Indiana, our older foster youth go to college at rates equal to other states, but Foster Success's data suggests that Indiana's older foster youth are completing at a higher rate.

29% completed a credential **overall**;  
slightly more in **2015-2016**  
than **2016-2017**



110 total credentials completed;  
almost half were Bachelor's degrees





INDIANA COMMISSION  
*for*  
HIGHER EDUCATION

- Collaboration with Education Outreach Team
  - 21st Century Scholars
  - Fostering Success Coaches Training
- Housing and Food Insecurity Report
- Data Sharing

# What's Next?

**Foster Success is committed to increasing the college-going rate and attainment of quality credentials of former foster youth**

In partnership with CHE, we'd like to:

- Build on past collaboration and success
- Increase the amount of research and data available
  - Including connecting data to DWD, DCS, and DOE
- Assist in campus communication and support
  - Identify points of contact for foster youth
  - Discuss additional support services
- Keep foster youth a priority in this work

# Sharing their Stories

Stephaney Knight  
Donesha Washington

# Thank You!

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